

**THE MINUTES OF THE HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
FAMILY AND CHILDREN SERVICES**

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

10:30 a.m.

Room 308 House Office Building

The House Standing Committee on Family and Children Services was called to order by **Representative Stahl**, Chair.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Representatives Stahl, Pearce, Vander Veen, Hoogendyk, Sheen, Clack, Spade, Polidori and Lemmons, Jr.

MEMBERS ABSENT/EXCUSED: None.

Representative Vander Veen moved to adopt the minutes of the **November 30, 2006** meeting. The motion was supported by **Representative Clack**. There being no objection, the motion prevailed by unanimous vote.

Chairman Stahl laid **HB 6661** before the committee:

HB 6661 Hummel Children; adoption; federal adoption subsidies; codify.

TESTIMONY

Ron Hicks and **Kate Hanley**, representing the Michigan Department of Human Services, testified in opposition to the bill.

Romy Crawford, from Representative Hummel's office, responded to the Department's testimony and testified in support of the bill.

Ann McNitt, representing adoptive parents, submitted a testimony card in support of the bill but did not testify.

Bill Kandler, representing the Family Law Section of the Michigan State Bar, submitted a testimony card in support of the bill but did not wish to speak.

Ms. Crawford explained a proposed substitute (H-1) to HB 6661.

Representative Vander Veen moved to adopt the substitute **(H-1)** to **HB 6661**. The motion was supported by **Representative Pierce**.

The motion prevailed by a vote of **9-0-0**.

FAVORABLE ROLL CALL:

Yeas: Representatives Stahl, Pearce, Vander Veen, Hoogendyk, Sheen, Clack, Spade, Polidori and Lemmons, Jr.,
Nays: None,
Pass: None.

Representative Vander Veen moved to report **HB 6661** with recommendation, as substitute (**H-1**). The motion was supported by **Representative Hoogendyk**.

The motion prevailed by a vote of **9-0-0**.

FAVORABLE ROLL CALL:

Yeas: Representatives Stahl, Pearce, Vander Veen, Hoogendyk, Sheen, Clack, Spade, Polidori and Lemmons, Jr.,

Nays: None,

Pass: None.

Chairman Stahl invited **Verlie Ruffin**, Michigan's Children's Ombudsman, to present the 2004-2005 Annual Report of the Office of Children's Ombudsman.

Ms. Ruffin gave an overview of the annual report.

Stacie Bladen, from the Office of Children's Ombudsman, testified before the committee to explain portions of the annual report.

Soleil Cambell, representing the Office of Family Advocate, testified on the Office of Children's Ombudsman 2004-2005 Annual Report.

Catherine Emerson, representing the Ingham County Prosecutor's Office, testified on the Office of Children's Ombudsman 2004-2005 Annual Report.

There being no further business to come before the committee, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 12:45 p.m.

Representative John Stahl, Chair
House Standing Committee on Family and Children Services
Doug Simon
Committee Clerk
517/373-7256
2 Hours 15 Minutes